

# ADVANCE MATERIALS FOR SPRING GOWNS ARE HERE

Fashions Wait on the Openings Promised by Paris Dress-makers--Work of American Manufacturers and Designers--More Fulness in the New Skirts

By FLEETWOOD HAYES.

WITH the holidays left behind and the Southern season on New York's winter seems to be travelling the downward slope. Left in within sight, the shops are gay with light hued cottons and silks, daffodils are afloat in the florists' windows, somewhere spring is whispering and dancing her way northward, and already women are making ready for her coming. To be sure, we are still wearing velvets and furs, and we are lucky enough to own velvet and fur, and we are likely to wear them for many weeks to come; but it isn't humanly possible to be greatly interested in them. Even where they appeal abnormally from bargain counters women pass them by to linger before the new muslins and summer frocks and gowns, the advance models in frocks and suits, the flower trimmed hats of straw.

Unless one is Southern bound it is well to content oneself with looking at these advance models. There are among them many sure to be fairly satisfactory throughout the spring and summer, and it is quite possible to plan simple linen and muslin frocks that the best seamstress can make and that will

appear with variations in light weight serge, gabardine, broadcloth, linen, etc., and in the black and white checks for which popularity is once more prophesied. Trig and clever little tailored suits these are too, though more American than French in air, and particularly well adapted to country wear and travel.

Rather more French in character, though still severely tailored, are the fitted in coats with their short flaring basques and their narrow belts posed just a little tight and drawn in snugly. Instead of being left loose like the high belts that appear on some of the straight coats.

These fitted in coats are shown both in one tone worsteds and in the checks, and the narrow belts are usually made of two materials. On a smart little suit of black and white check wool, for example, the back of the belt is of the checked material, thus avoiding any serious cutting of the length in the back, while in front the narrow band and buckle are of black patent leather. On a dark blue gabardine—and dark blues appear to be as popular as ever—the back of the narrow belt is of patent leather and the front of white leather harmonizing with the high white satin collar and flat turnback cuffs of white satin.

Most of these coats still sport high collars, or at least collars high in the back and only slightly open in front, the coat fronts closing high across the chest. This has been the accepted winter mode, and it may be that the Southern models have merely echoed the winter idea and that the opening will give us coat fronts more adapted to warm weather comfort, but the fashion has been an insistent effort to establish it this winter, and the average woman has refused to accept it even in cold weather and only a martyr on fashion's altar will adopt it for hot weather wear. That it will be shown is certain, but that it will be generally accepted is not believable, and though décolletage may not be so pronounced in daytime frocks as it was last year the collar rolling or rising more or less high at the back of the neck and leaving the throat free in front is fairly sure to be the accepted mode of the summer, as it has been of the winter.

With the Russian blouse models the high, straight, all around collar looks well and one sees it in some of the most attractive advance models of this season. That the high all around close collar in coat, bodice or blouse is not creditable. There has been an insistent effort to establish it this winter, but the average woman has refused to accept it even in cold weather and only a martyr on fashion's altar will adopt it for hot weather wear. That it will be shown is certain, but that it will be generally accepted is not believable, and though décolletage may not be so pronounced in daytime frocks as it was last year the collar rolling or rising more or less high at the back of the neck and leaving the throat free in front is fairly sure to be the accepted mode of the summer, as it has been of the winter.

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The sand, biscuit and putty shades bid fair to continue their popularity, and though a month or two ago it was hard to find these shades in the materials one wanted they are available now in every sort of silk, wool, linen and cotton. Covers are in great demand, and if Paris induces them for spring they will be more than ever a mainstay, but there are many other lightweight worsteds in the covert colorings ready to contend for their share of feminine favor.

Paris promises to do much with violets, grays, the tan tones and certain blues, and it is practically certain that all white, black and white or white and black effects will be extremely modish. Some charming models have come over in white and black stripes and in white and black stripes with tiny flower sprigs or vines in the white stripe or with hair lines of color introduced. Some exceedingly attractive radium silks are of this last design, each wide stripes of white and black being lined by variously grouped hair line stripes of gay color—gold or rose or blue or cerise.

Stripes figure prominently in all classes of material, and the manufacturers have evidently counted confidently upon their success. In silks one finds stripes in every width from hair lines to three inches, the latter usually in one tone coloring and alternating stripes of soft taffeta and satin. Sometimes the taffeta stripe will be of shot coloring and one of the loveliest new things shown among a recent importation of fine silks has a three inch stripe of ciel blue satin alternating with a stripe of the same width in shot ciel and violet.

The sprigged and large flowered taffetas and failles are very lovely too, and particularly bewitching are certain soft, shimmering ivory white taffetas embroidered thickly to the most minute of flower sprigs, a host of flowers and colors being represented.

The hand blocked chintz floral designs on crepe, radium, taffeta, cotton voile, cotton crepe, etc., are beautiful, and similar designs in rather small figures on chiffon suggest exquisitely dainty summer evening frocks.

Linen of many weaves are in evidence and some of the newest are particularly soft, which is a fortunate thing in view of the increased skirt fulness. A material of still more softness and yet of body that fits it for the sort of models to which linen are dedicated is a cotton gabardine which is very likely to meet with conspicuous success. It is made by the domestic manufacturers in admirable quality and a wide range of attractive colorings, is said to launder well and altogether is very desirable where thin cotton is not wanted.

Cotton whilpoid, cotton Bedford and cotton corduroy all come in good colorings too and will probably be much used for separate skirts, sports purposes, etc.

Cotton voiles multiply as the sands of the sea, and the cotton crepes are not far behind. There are particularly delightful stripe designs in the fine voiles—rough silk stripes in the same color as the ground of the material or in contrasting material and even more fetching stripes in white and color of the same weave, but in varying widths. A delicate rose pink voile, say, will be broken into inch or inch and a half stripes by groups of hair lines in white, alternating with the plain spaces of pink. Or the ground may be white and the groups of fine lines in color. Or between inch wide groups of delicate colored hair lines a little wide stripe of the finest blossoms and leaves may run along a white ground.

Dots are effectively used too among the sheer cotton stuffs and are in every size from the small snowflake dot to the coin dot as large as a 5 cent piece, or even larger. Black dots on buff, light blue or rose have a certain smartness that is likely to commend them.

Organdie dentelle, an organdie with an open work weave suggesting shadow lace printed in delicate floral designs, is among the novelties of merit.

Bordered materials do not seem as insistent as they usually are in the early showing of cottons, and yet the new season promises rather more scope than usual for their use. Borders are

are the custom, are constantly on the watch for something new and different. The consomme should be light colored and garnished with quenelles prepared as follows: Melt five ounces of butter and work into it seven ounces of bread crumbs, moistening it all with about a gill of cream or new milk till you have a smooth, lithe paste about the consistency of that used for eclairs. Work into this when cool two or more egg yolks, a dust of sugar, salt and coralline pepper, and lastly two ounces of grated Parmesan cheese. Test a piece by poaching it in a little boiling stock or water to see if it is of the right consistency, then shape it like any other quenelles, and poach in the usual way. Should the paste for these be too thick dilute with a little more cream or milk; if too thin, thicken with a little additional flour. If liked, these quenelles can be fried in boiling fat instead of poaching them, but in this case they should be handled separately.

Sole Grenade—Trim neatly as many fillets of sole as are required, and season with pepper, salt and a little lemon juice; roll each fillet round a cork shaped piece of potato and tie up in buttered paper. Cook for twelve to fifteen minutes in a little white wine and when ready set the fillets aside till cold. Boil half a pint of milk with a bouquet and a shallot till nicely flavored, then strain and add to it two ounces of white roux, stirring it together till blended, and let it boil up. Then add the raw yolks of two eggs, season with coralline pepper and a teaspoonful of essence of anchovy and stir it all till very thick, but without allowing it to boil; then sieve, add the flesh of a small, finely chopped lobster, and a little chopped parsley. When the fillets are

quite cold remove the paper and the potato and fill them up with the lobster butter and then dip them in good frying batter and fry to a pale golden color, drain well, dish up and serve with Chauron sauce. For the sauce: Stir together over the fire the yolks of five eggs, one ounce of butter and a dust each of salt and freshly ground black pepper. As soon as the butter is melted and the eggs begin to thicken lift the pan off the fire and stir in another ounce of butter; then return the pan to the fire to dissolve the butter, and repeat this twice more, stirring the butter well in each time off the fire, and then returning the pan to melt the butter. When you have used and well blended in four ounces of butter all together, tummy, and add a good wineglassful of tomato puree and a teaspoonful of chile vinegar and use.

Creme de Volaille—Line some small horseshoe or other fancy moulds with savory or aspic jelly, coating this again with white chauron sauce, and fill with a chicken puree. Cover with more jelly and leave till set, then turn out on to a low border of jelly and serve with grapes skinned and seeded, sliced bananas and chopped nuts all tossed in oil, vinegar, seasoned with salt and pepper in the centre, and a salad of celery and tomato in the round. For the Chicken Puree—Pouring 10 to 12 ounces of cold cooked chicken still smooth, together with 4 ounces of foie gras, then mix in with three-quarters of a pint of vealote, in which three-fourths of an ounce of leaf gelatine has been dissolved, a wineglassful of sherry, a teaspoonful of Bovril and a little salt. Sieve it and stir it till

warm over boiling water, when you stir in half a pint of stiffly whipped cream and use at once.

Tournefroid de Boeuf—Cut the tournefroid from the fillet of beef, but them out lightly, sautez, and serve garnished with artichoke bottoms filled with a mushroom puree. For this melt one-half pound of mushrooms, peel them and cut off the stalks. Put the stalks and trimmings into a pan with a little salt and freshly ground black pepper and just enough water to float them all, bring this all to the boil, simmer for twelve to fifteen minutes, then strain through fine muslin. Now put the trimmed mushrooms into a pan with this liquor, rather more than half a gill of milk, together with a pinch of salt and a dust of pepper. Bring it all well to the boil, then let it simmer gently for fifteen minutes; at the end of this time lift off the pan, let the mushrooms cool in their own liquor, then lift them out, draining them as you do so back into the pan; dry them carefully and rub them through a sieve, using half an ounce of butter to work them through. Now strain the liquor onto half a pint of brown sauce and stir it all over the fire till it thickens and will coat the spoon. Next stir in the puree and keep the pan containing this in the bain-marie, or in a larger pot, three parts full of boiling water, till wanted.

Saddle of Lamb Metternich—Braise the saddle, and when cooked lift it out and place it on a dish, then with a sharp knife remove the fillets on either side of the bone and cut these into even sized slices, keeping the knife rather on the

slant. In the space left by the fillets spread in some Bechamel sauce seasoned with coralline pepper, place the slices of meat back into position and between each of these pour a dessert-spoonful of Bechamel sauce and two thin slices of truffle; then mask the whole joint with the sauce, put into the oven just to glaze, then serve at once, sending the liquor in which it was braised to table with the saddle chafing previously removed all grease and reduced it well, together with Bluff of rice. For this melt two ounces of butter in a pan and fry in this half an onion finely chopped and half a pound of well washed rice. Stir it all together over the fire without letting it color, moisten with one quart of white stock, cover down the pan and cook in a moderate oven for eighteen to twenty minutes and serve.

Rissolletes d'Anchois—Roll out some trimmings of puff pastry very thin and stamp it out into rounds. Have ready four or five anchovies previously well washed in scalding water; dry, bone and fillet them and pound with about one ounce of butter and the hard boiled yolks of two eggs. Sieve this mixture, moisten with a little good stock or glaze, season to taste with coralline pepper and place a small teaspoonful of this mixture on each round of pastry; wet the edges of the rounds and fold them over into a crescent shape, pinching them well together, then fry in plenty of hot fat till of a golden brown; drain and serve very hot, dusted with coralline pepper and finely chopped parsley.

## SPECIAL NOTICE

### HELP NATURE HOLD YOUR HAIR CHARMS

Fulness, even color, brilliance and softness are the attributes of healthy hair. Nature requires only sensible cleanliness, especially freedom from dandruff, in exchange for hair beauty. You help Nature most when you assist her by the best method, to safely make and keep a perfectly clean, healthy scalp. In washing the hair it is not advisable to use a makeshift, but always use a preparation made for shampooing only. You can enjoy the best that is known for about three cents a shampoo by getting a package of canthrox from your druggist; dissolve a teaspoonful in a cup of hot water and your shampoo is ready. After its use the hair dries rapidly with uniform color. Dandruff, excess oil and dirt are dissolved and entirely disappear. Your hair will be so fluffy that it will look much heavier than it is. Its lustre and softness will also delight you, while the stimulated scalp gains the health which insures hair growth.



Gray and pink.



Linen crash.



Natural pongee.



Checked wool.

be reasonably modish all through the coming season; but the fact remains that Paris has not had her innings, and though kingdoms fall Paris intends to have her innings.

Enough of the famous couturiers have planned openings to insure a kindly looking of clever models, and though, as has been said before in *The Sun*, the limitations in materials must handicap the genius of the designers to a certain extent this very limitation may bring out even more than the usual originality in line and detail. A few late season and advance models have filtered through the Custom House within the past month, but not until the openings in Paris are past and the results can be summed up will the question of the lines and features that are to prevail in dress during spring and summer be definitely understood.

Even then there will be chance for much modification and adjustment. Meteoric successes will live their short day and die of their own popularity. Women having seen what the dress-makers want them to wear will decide what they want to wear, but until we see what is offered our fashion ideas are in solution and not all the skilful efforts of American designers to precipitate those ideas will move us steadily.

It seems to be on the cards that there will be rather more than the usual divergence between the showings of the various French houses, Empire, 1820, 1870, Russian, Oriental and crossbred modes of innumerable types are in the running and advance models have competed with all of these influences.

That there is to be more fulness in the skirts is a thing decided; yet many of the best houses appear to favor conservative measures in this regard, and some of the smartest skirts, though ample enough for freedom, flare out at all.

There is that matter of the tunic. Its outline was written long ago, but certain of the newest models from authoritative sources flaunt tunics as unconcernedly as though the poor things had never died at all.

And if we are to be nipped in at the waistline, well, there are uncommonly smart looking new coats and bodices that will not do it for us.

On the whole it is wise not to plunge just now; it is best to wait until there has been opportunity to see and compare all the new models and to note which way the favor of the best judges inclines. The waiting will not be long and in the meantime there is amusement in studying the avant couriers and in guessing at their significance. In the meantime too one can safely experiment with a few inexpensive spring and summer frocks, sure to prove useful if not the very latest word in any of the seasons' fashions.

The Russian blouse, the bolero and the long length coat, either straight or belted rather snugly just above the natural waist line and flaring very considerably over the hips, are the suit coats most emphasized by domestic manufacturers and featured most often in the latest imported models. The long suit coat has lost prestige even during the winter, and naturally with a spring season ahead, its popularity is more than ever likely to wane.

The straight little hip length models, with or without high placed belts, that have been so much liked in covert, ap-

class, as in the sheer white muslin frock that figures in the large group on this page. Here the cachet of the frock depends upon the character of material and line and the severity of its detail—the tailored suggestion gaining piquancy from association with the sheerness of the white stuff. The full skirt and Russian smock are guileless of trimming beyond lines of heavy self-cording, but this heavy cording well placed gives more originality and smartness of effect than any amount of elaboration. There is a clever girlish too in gay stripes of blues and yellows.

Another good model upon exactly the same lines, save that the smock is longer, has an under skirt of fine linen in a soft and lovely shade of cool green. The smock is of white voile trimmed at the bottom in three two inch bands of the green linen and the long sleeves are trimmed in the same way; but there is a little narrow cummy lace let in on the upper line of the bands and softening the fronts, shoulder lines and collar.

Russian blouses of shorter measure and combined with full tunics appear both in cottons and in silks, and the simple little model in blue silk which is sketched in the central group was imported this month from a famous French maker and was priced absurdly high despite its demure simplicity. It would lend itself uncommonly well to any of the soft cottons of silk, but is very smart in having a decided vogue, like all the failles and the soft taffetas, and the merchants are already showing lovely colorings in it.

Appropos of colors, the new impetus to American manufacture of textiles finds an echo in the distinctively American names attached to the new colorings in domestic silks, woolens and cottons. We have Palm Beach sand, a soft shade of the ubiquitous sand color; Newport tan, a few tones lighter; Rocky Mountain blue, a clear, warm medium blue which is likely to find much favor; Gettysburg gray, etc.

always hard to handle in scant skirts, but given the possibility of a full straight skirt a bordered material presents no difficulties. Among the prettiest of the new border materials are sheer cotton voiles and chiffons figured in little sprigs or in dots and bordered by a very wide band of plain tone satin—a border so wide that it affords plain satin material for a deep girlish or an entire overbodice or little coat if needed for such purpose.

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